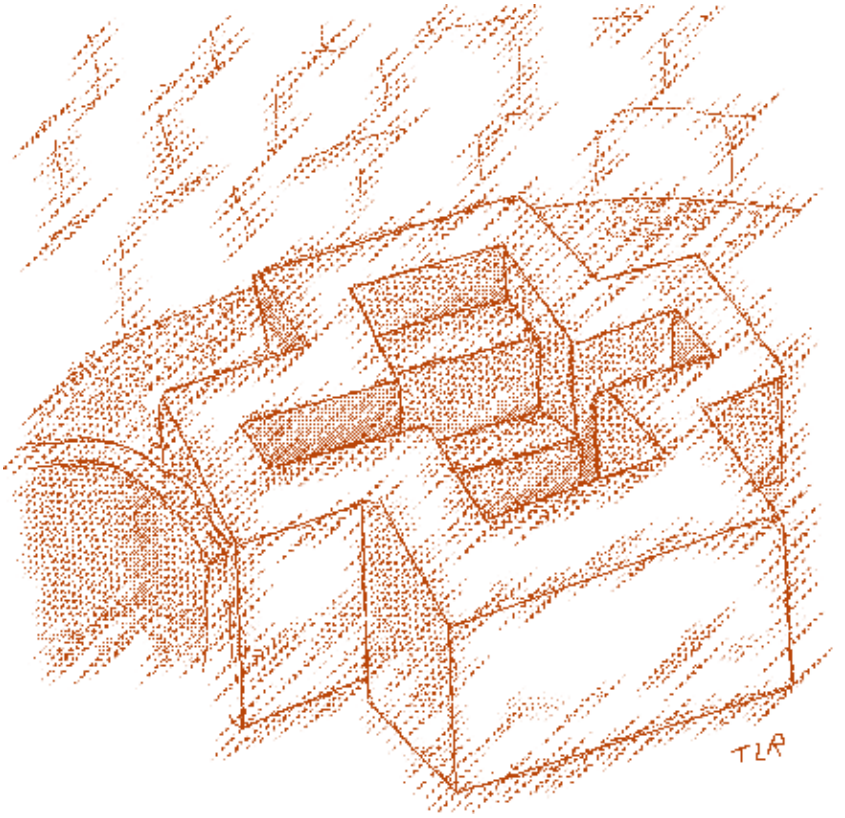
On Christian Baptism



"...into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" –Matt. 28:19

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, PA
August 17, AD 2025

THE LORD'S DAY

The Seventeenth Day of August, *in the Year of our Lord* 2025

- ONE - IS - YOUR - MASTER - AND - ALL - YE - ARE - BRETHREN -

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Our Church History series addresses the Reformation.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"Glory be the Father"* (#559).

Invocation.*

Hymn: "Our Great Savior" (#1; vv. 1, 2, 3, 5)."

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Matt. 28:16-20.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Jesus Loves Me"* (#251).

Announcemnts.

Hymn: *"In Times Like These"* (#328).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Message: *"BAPTISM: THE TRINITARIAN CONFESSION."*

Closing Hymn:* *"Only Trust Him"* (#312).

Benediction.*

Stewardship a way of life

Week of Aug. 10 – Aug. 16

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—11;
Midweek—2; Weekly Offering—$585.00

Cover Illustration: Ancient Baptistry, Avdat, Israel.

Midweek Prayer & Bible Study: Thurs., 6:30PM.

The importance of the ministry of corporate prayer is second to none within the life of the local church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAPTISMAL SERVICE: This will be the principal event of our Morning Worship Service on **August 24!**

Brethren Church founder Alexander Mack baptizes one of the original eight members of the church in 1708.

Dave (left) & Joe Zambuto with their Pastor, Matt Foreman

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: **David Zambuto**, a long-time Practorium Student from the North Buffalo Grace Brethren Church of Kittanning, PA will be filling in on Sunday, **August 31st**. Please come out and encourage this brother with your attentive support!

GIDEON SUNDAY: A special guest speaker from the Gideons International will be sharing on **September 7th** what God is currently doing throughout the world in that great ministry.

"With Charity for All..."

Matt. 5:44b: "…love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"

by Pastor Terry L. Reese, Valley GBC, Armagh, PA 8/14/25

Outside the Biblical Ethic of Jesus, the story of Dirk Willems, a 16th century Dutch Anabaptist martyr, defies all rational explanation.

Incarcerated for promoting the cause of ***Believer's Baptism*** and rebaptizing those who had been "baptized" as infants,

Pastor Willems was held prisoner for months within a gloomy, moat-encircled fortress. Finding opportunity to escape in the winter of 1569, Dirk successfully crossed the ice-encrusted moat while being pursued by an officer—who proceeded to fall through the ice!

At this point, we might ask ourselves *"What would YOU do under such circumstances?"* Most of us, I dare say, would continue our flight. Dirk—unable to ignore the cries of a fellow man in distress—immediately turned about and rescued his pursuer. Despite the pleas of the grateful officer that his deliverer be released, the local Burgermeister insisted that Willems be returned to prison for prosecution. The authorities—under the tender guidance of Romanism—convicted and mercilessly tortured Dirk in a futile attempt to make him recant his Anabaptist Faith. In May of 1569, Dirk Willems died horribly—being slowly burnt alive at the stake.

Let us return to the icy moat, where there was little time for reflection: Willems was required to make an instant decision. The only explanation that speaks unto the facts is that Willems had so internalized a Christlike charity that he was able—*almost intuitively*—to rapidly pivot and regard a hostile pursuing wolf as someone in need of redemption. Marvel—Jesus died for us sinners when we were yet *enemies* (Rom. 5:10, Col. 1:21-22)! What a hard saying is Matt. 5:44—what a lofty challenge! To deny *self*, take up a *cross*, and *follow* (Matt. 16:24)!